

test us and perhaps also show us at our best.

MAKE REAL THE PROMISE OF DEMOCRACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation, but I rise today also to say to America it is time now, not later on. One of my favorite speakers, Dr. King, had a speech that he gave saying "Now is the Time." For a moment I am going to paraphrase some of his words. He said now is the time to make real the promise of democracy.

He said now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley, and I say the valley is this national despair that we are in right now, to the sunlit path of Americans helping Americans.

Now is the time to lift our Nation from the quicksands of Hurricane Katrina to the solid rock of safety and normalcy for the people of America.

We have had all these images on television. We have had images of people in facilities that were built for games. We have images of people in facilities that were built for conventions. We have had images of people who are American people, they are taxpayers, they are the elderly, they are the frail, they are the poor, they are the people left out without any housing. This is a class issue because those of us who had the money to get out of New Orleans, get out of Mississippi, get out of Alabama, they got out. But these are people who are American taxpayers who could not get out. Why are we not helping them?

Today we have allocated resources. What I am concerned about is who will the resources go to? When we look at Iraq, they went to Halliburton. What about the resources going to the American taxpayers? They paid their dues.

I took a moment and went on the Internet and got the application for disaster resource. The application and the pages that go with them are some 25 pages. Can you imagine if you were in the situation of some of these people, that they would in fact have to fill out this form. Let us get rid of the form and give them what they need. Put these people on cruise ships with bedrooms, bathrooms, food, a place where they could be. Let us not try to figure out and make magic. We know what can work for these people.

Finally, these men, women and families are entitled. They are American taxpayers, take care of them.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan.

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Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I first want to say that these people are not refugees. They are American citizens who pay taxes and

are raising their children. I would hope that we would not relegate them to something less than American citizens.

I rise in support of the legislation and would like to report on what the City of Detroit is doing. Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick has put together an organization with the private sector as well as FEMA over the last 48 hours, and we are offering to the families that have been decimated 500 housing spots immediately. We have been working with the United Way and the health care industry to provide the resources that these families will need, housing, health care, water, food, clothing.

We in the City of Detroit stand ready, under Mayor Kilpatrick's leadership. We have spoken with the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), as well as the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS), and the gentleman from New Orleans, Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON), and all have agreed to work to move them now.

We need other government officials from around the country to step up and to bring them home. The people of New Orleans have nothing to go back to.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of our Mayor and the City of Detroit. Detroit has stood up, through Mayor Kilpatrick's leadership, and we ask that other cities around this great Nation of ours who have the wherewithal, because private companies are ready to help, and they have helped us.

The Detroit public schools have agreed to take children from the ravished areas. I thank the Mayor of Detroit as well as my colleague for yielding me this time.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, now is the time to help the people of America who have been in this situation for 3 or 4 days. If we can go into Iraq and rebuild Iraq, we can build what the people of America need in the Gulf region and take care of what they need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CAPITO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I began this week with a stomach virus that had me flat on my back and very quickly that illness was replaced with a sickness in my stomach from watching our fellow Americans, some of the most vulnerable, some of the poorest, hurting, even dying, and all week long, like many of my colleagues I have spoken with today, feeling somewhat helpless, even as a Federal legislator, not being able to roll up my sleeves and go and help our fellow man.

We are with all of these people. From the Tennessee Valley to the Silicon Valley, we stand with our friends and neighbors in Louisiana and Mississippi and Alabama, but particularly in the New Orleans area and in southern Mississippi where the devastation is so bad.

Mr. Speaker, there is going to be plenty of time to point fingers, scrub the problems, determine what changes need to be made, what broke down at the local, State, Federal level. I hope knowing this institution now as well as I have known it for 11 years, and knowing the goodness of most people from both sides of the aisle, we can do as much as possible, like we did after September 11 and come together, bring the Nation together, around the solutions.

This has been an extraordinary time over these last 4 years in this country as we put 22 agencies together to form the Department of Homeland Security, including taking FEMA from an independent agency under this new umbrella. Obviously all of the bugs have not been worked out; and obviously, as the President said today, this is an unacceptable response, frankly, at every level, local, State and Federal.

But let us today try to hold off on too much of the blame and come together to support all of these people. I am greatly encouraged today to see the truckloads and the air loads going in and people being evacuated. Until every person that is still living is in a safe and secure place, let us try to meet each other at the water's edge and try to solve these problems. Every minute it is improving and the system is improving at every level of government.

These are difficult, difficult times. It is important that we come together. Natural disasters, terrorist activities, these activities will probably continue, and we have to make sure I believe as leaders that the unity of purpose, of mind, of spirit is maintained in order to preserve what we have. It is going to be easy for chaos to take place in the cities that are affected or even on the floor of this great institution if we are not careful that we do not dumb down to the lowest common denominator of criticizing or breaking down. It is a time of unity in the day and months ahead. The solutions are extremely difficult.

I want to also talk beyond this crisis and hurricane because I believe we were headed for serious trouble before